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E.O. 11652: DFS

TAGS: PK, FR, US, MNUC, PARM

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR REPROCES-

SING ISSUE

REF: ISLAMABAD 11812

1. AT NOVEMBER 13 MEETING OF DCM WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY (REFTEL) AGHA SHAHI BROUGHT UP WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS CAMPAIGN OF MISREPRESENTATION AND INCITEMENT IN WEST AGAINST FRENCH-PAKISTANI CONTRACT FOR REPROCESSING PLANT. SHAHI CITED AS AN EXAMPLE RECENT SULZBERGER ARTICLE IN PARIS TRIBUNE ALLEGING THAT SAFEGUARDS ON REPROCESSING PLANT DID NOT COVER REPLICATION OF THE PLANT. SHAHI STATED THAT THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE DOES IN FACT COVER REPLICATION BY PAKISTAN AND ALLEGED THAT THIS REPORT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO CAST DOUBTS ON PAKISTAN'S INTENTIONS WHICH ARE ENTIRELY PEACEFUL. SHAHI ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOP HAD CONVEYED TO THE USG ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANY ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS THAT WE BELIEVED NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT NO DIVERSIONS FROM LEGITIMATE FUEL PURPOSES TOOK PLACE FROM THE FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT.

2. SHAHI ALSO CITED THE RECENT STATEMENT OF CANADIAN MINISTER JAMISON (TO THE EFFECT THAT PAKISTAN MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FRANCE AS A SOURCE FOR REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY OR CONFIDENTIAL

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CANADA FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION) AS A FURTHER

EXAMPLE OF UNFAIR AND UNREASONABLE TACTICS TO PRESSURE PAKISTAN. SHAHI INSISTED THAT GOP WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT ALL REASONABLECONDITIOONS IMPOSED BY GOC ON ITS KANUPP REACTOR, INCLUDING A VETO ON REPROCESSING OF CANADIAN SUPPLIED FUEL, BUT COULD COULD NOT ACCEPT THE GOC DEMAND FOR A VETO ON REPROCESSING OF FUEL SUPPLIED TO KANUPP FROM OTHER SOURCES.

- 3. SHAHI THEN REITERATED FAMILIAR GOP POSITION ON THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PROCEEDING WITH THE REPROCESSING PLAN, ASSERTING THAT CANCELLATION WOULD BE DISASTROUS INTERNALLY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND RUINOUS TO PAKISTAN'S POSITION IN THE THIRD WORLD. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED PAKISTAN'S RESENTMENT OVER WHAT IT SEES AS DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT, BY WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S., AS COMPARED WITH TOLERANCE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.
- 4. COMMENT: SHAHI'S PRESENTATION, WHILE FORCEFUL, WAS MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER. IT IS APPARENT FROM HIS REMARKS AND FROM REPEATED ARTICLES IN THE PAKISTAN PRESS ASSERTING THAT THE FRENCH DEAL IS STILL ON, THAT THE GOP IS INCREASINGLY NERVOUS OVER THE PROSPECT OF A CANCELLATION. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IN RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GOP AND GOF, INCLUDING AZIZ AHMED'S CURRENT VISIT TO PARIS AND VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL FRENCH ENVOY TO SEE BHUTTO, THE PAKISTANS ARE SHOWING ANY GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. SHAHI'S REMARKS WOULD INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, THEY WANT US TO BELIEVE THEY ARE STILL HOLDING FAST, AND INSISTENT THAT THE CONTRACT WITH FRANCE BE COMPLETED.
- 5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO PARIS AND OTTAWA.
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